



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### WARD T. BOWER RETIRES FROM FEDERAL SERVICE

After 47 years of continuous service in fisheries work for the United States Government, Ward T. Bower has retired as Chief of the Division of Alaska Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service, it was announced today by Albert M. Day, Director of the Service. Mr. Bower has been located in Chicago since 1942 when the headquarters of the Service was moved from Washington to that city.

"Ward Bower leaves a magnificent record of achievement in the field of conservation, and his retirement will be distinctly felt," said Mr. Day. "His is the longest record of continuous service in Federal fisheries work. In his years of duty, he has become a specialist on Alaska, and an authority on the aquatic resources of that great Territory. Under his administration the North Pacific fur seal herd has increased from 125,000 animals in 1911 to more than 3,300,000 today, and through wise management during this period of growth, about 1,300,000 sealskins have been taken from surplus male animals to enrich the Treasury of the United States by more than 10 million dollars.

"This outstanding accomplishment in the field of wildlife restoration is only of the monuments to Mr. Bower's tireless devotion to the cause of conservation," continued Mr. Day. "In addition, he has had guiding hand in the development and management of the valuable salmon and other commercial fisheries of Alaska, directing and encouraging the research on which has been based legislation and regulations designed to maintain them forever at a high productive level. This is an enviable record for which Mr. Bower is deserving of the highest praise."

Ward T. Bower came by his interest in fishery conservation naturally. Born at Northville, Michigan, on November 17, 1881, his father, Seymour Bower, was for 20 years the active head of the Michigan Fish Commission, the forerunner of the present Department of Conservation of Michigan. Educated in Detroit, Mr. Bower joined the staff of the U. S. Fish Commission as an apprentice fish culturist on July 1, 1900, at the fish cultural station at Northville, Michigan. This organization in 1903 was designated as the Bureau of Fisheries and in 1940 it was merged with the Biological Survey to form the present Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the first ten years of his service, Mr. Bower was identified with fish cultural activities, holding positions of responsibility at stations in Michigan, Minnesota, and California, and finally going to the Washington office as Superintendent of fish distribution.

In 1911, Mr. Bower entered full time work in the Division of Alaska Fisheries with which he has been associated continuously ever since, holding variously the positions of Inspector, Assistant Agent, Agent, Administrative Officer, and Chief. During the years since 1911 he has spent many months in Alaska, and in 1922 he accompanied the Assistant Secretary of Commerce on a world cruise to investigate the maritime industries and economic conditions in Russia, Japan, China, India, Egypt, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the British Isles, and elsewhere.

Mr. Bower has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1900, an officer of the Society for five terms, and editor of its publications two different years. He is also a member of the Biological Society of Washington; the Cosmos Club, Washington; the Federal Club, Washington; the Arctic Club, Seattle; the Shrine (Moslem Temple), Detroit, and other Masonic bodies in Michigan.

Mr. Bower is the author of more than 40 publications on a variety of subjects in the fields of fish culture, aquarium management, fishery conservation, marine mammals, and Alaska.

Mr. Bower's permanent address is 6011 Nevada Avenue, N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

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